

News Release

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Male visitor dies while scuba diving

PORT ALLEN – Hugh Morris, a 58-year-old man from Oregon, died Monday while scuba diving in waters off Port Allen Small Boat Harbor in a location known as "Amber's Arches."

According to a preliminary report, the company Bubbles Below was conducting a tour and had divers in the water, including Morris, at about 8:15 a.m.

The report states that Morris indicated that he was anxious prior to the dive but after calming down, decided to get into the water with an instructor via a mooring line.

Nonetheless, approximately 10 minutes into the dive, Morris signaled that he wanted to come back up.

He returned to the surface and started to swim back to the boat. But prior to reaching the vessel, he began to exhibit signs of distress and became unresponsive soon thereafter.

Crew members tried to revive the victim and brought him back to the boat where they continued to administer CPR as they headed to shore.

Hanapēpē Firefighters and AMR medics were dispatched to the Port Allen Small Boat Harbor where they took over advanced resuscitation efforts, but the man could not be revived.

The man was transported to Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy is scheduled to determine the exact cause of death.

Volunteers with Life's Bridges, a grief counseling service, arrived at the hospital and provided support to the man's family.